**Final Expository Essay: *Macbeth***

Directions: Please choose one of the following prompts below on which to write a strong, concise essay. Do not exceed 5 pages double-spaced. Keep in mind the following:

**Format**: MLA Formatting throughout

Title your essay (original and relevant to your topic)

Incorporate at least 6 quotes as evidence to support your arguments

Use only specific parts of quotes (none should exceed about 6 lines)

Cite quotes correctly:

* 3 lines or less, incorporate quote into paragraph
* use a forward slash (/) to mark line-ends
* 4 lines or more, indent entire quote and follow line format in text
* After each quote, cite Act, scene, and line numbers:

Ex.: Macbeth addresses the guests at his banquet with a meaningful, “You know your own degrees; sit down. At first/And last, the hearty welcome” (III.iv.1-2). –note the end-quote follows text and end-punctuation follows citation

**Essay Requirements:**

As always, begin your essay with an introduction, first hooking the reader, then narrowing the universal statement to introduce the title and author, and finally focus on a thesis statement that both tells the reader what you’ll be proving, and also states your position. (no “I”!)

Start each body argument with a transition/topic sentence that introduces your argument. Lead the reader into the quote smoothly (introduce speaker or situation), quote w/correct format/citation, analyze the quote, and tie back to how it supports your argument/thesis.

Finally, develop a strong conclusion that recaps your thesis and arguments and provides a powerful, global (universal) end-statement.

**Essay Topics:** Choose one, be definitive in your position, read carefully, and answer thoroughly. Consider the whole play in your response.

1. *Macbeth* is about various kinds of murder (among other things). Does the play distinguish between honorable and dishonorable violence? Can this very bloody play be seen as a plea for peace and human harmony?
2. Discuss the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. How does it change and why? To what extent is their relationship the engine that drives the tragedy?
3. Explore the character of Lady Macbeth.  How is she a model woman?  How is she a failure to be a good woman?  Does she have any heroic or redeeming qualities?  What are her failures and what are her successes?  What does her ultimate fate say about her?
4. How does Shakespeare use the ‘unnatural’ or ‘supernatural’ to develop one key theme of the play?

1. Macbeth is often cited as a famous example of what the American sociologist Robert Merton called a “self-fulfilling prophecy.” Discuss how the mechanism of the witches’ prophecy works in terms of its self-fulfillment.
2. A topic of your own… please see me for approval.